AMENDMENTS OF CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A particle derivative of at least one form of high density lipoprotein particle comprising apolipoprotein A-1 and phospholipids wherein the particle derivative is formed by obtaining a mixture of high density lipoprotein particles and low density lipoprotein particles from a biological fluid, and exposing a the mixture ~~of the high density lipoprotein and low density lipoprotein~~ to a lipid removing agent, wherein the exposure does not substantially modify the low density lipoprotein particles, and wherein the particle derivative has a lower content of at least one of lipid or cholesterol than the high density lipoprotein particles prior to exposure to the lipid removing agent.

2. (Currently amended) The particle derivative of claim 1, wherein the particle derivative has a lower content of cholesterol than the high density lipoprotein particles prior to exposure to the lipid removing agent.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The particle derivative of claim 1, wherein the lipid removing agent is an ether or a combination of an alcohol and an ether.

5. (Previously Presented) The particle derivative of claim 4, wherein the ether is di-isopropyl ether.

6. (Previously Presented) The particle derivative of claim 4, wherein the alcohol is n-butanol.

7. (Previously Presented) The particle derivative of claim 1, wherein the lipid removing agent is a mixture of sevoflurane and n-butanol.

8. (Currently amended) The particle derivative of claim 1, wherein the exposure is achieved by an exposure process comprising the steps of:

a. mixing the lipid removing agent with a the mixture of the high density lipoprotein particles and the low density lipoprotein particles to create a mixture of the particle derivative, lipids, the lipid removing agent, and the low density lipoprotein particles;

b. separating the lipid removing agent and lipids from the mixture of the particle derivative, the lipids, the lipid removing agent, and the low density lipoprotein particles; and,

c. collecting the particle derivative and low density lipoprotein particles.

9. (Previously Presented) The particle derivative of claim 8, wherein the lipid removing agent comprises a mixture of 95 parts sevoflurane and 5 parts n-butanol.

10. (Previously Presented) The particle derivative of claim 8, wherein the mixing is performed using a static mixer.

11. (Previously Presented) The particle derivative of claim 8, wherein the separation is performed using a charcoal column.

12. (Currently amended) The particle derivative of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

a. connecting a patient to a device for withdrawing blood;

b. withdrawing blood containing blood cells from the patient;

c. separating blood cells from the blood to yield a fraction wherein the fraction contains a mixture of the high density lipoprotein particles and the low density lipoprotein particles; and,

d. mixing the lipid removing agent with the fraction.

13. (Currently amended) A particle derivative of at least one form of high density lipoprotein particle comprising apolipoprotein A-1 and phospholipids wherein the particle derivative is formed by ~~first removing~~ separating low density lipoprotein particles

from a mixture of the high density lipoprotein particles and the low density lipoprotein particles and subsequently exposing the mixture to a lipid removing agent.

14. (Currently amended) The particle derivative of claim 13, wherein the particle derivative has a lower content of cholesterol than the high density lipoprotein particles.

15. (Previously Presented) The particle derivative of claim 13, wherein the lipid removing agent is an ether or a combination of an alcohol and an ether.

16. (Previously Presented) The particle derivative of claim 15, wherein the ether is di-isopropyl ether.

17. (Previously Presented) The particle derivative of claim 15, wherein the alcohol is n-butanol.

18. (Previously Presented) The particle derivative of claim 13, wherein the lipid removing agent is a mixture of sevoflurane and n-butanol.

19. (Currently amended) The particle derivative of claim 13, wherein the exposure is achieved by an exposure process comprising the steps of:

~~a. separating the low-density lipoprotein from a mixture of the high density lipoprotein and the low density lipoprotein particles;~~

~~b.~~ a. mixing the lipid removing agent with the high density lipoprotein particles to create a mixture of the particle derivative, lipids, and the lipid removing agent;

~~c.~~ b. separating the lipid removing agent and lipids from the mixture of the particle derivative, the lipids, and the lipid removing agent; and,

~~d.~~ c. collecting the particle derivative.

20. (Previously Presented) The particle derivative of claim 19, wherein the lipid removing agent comprises a mixture of 95 parts sevoflurane and 5 parts n-butanol.

21. (Currently amended) The particle derivative of claim 19, wherein the separation of the low density lipoprotein particles is performed using an apheresis device.

22. (Previously Presented) The particle derivative of claim 19, wherein the mixing is performed using a static mixer.

23. (Previously Presented) The particle derivative of claim 19, wherein the separation of the lipid removing agent and the lipids is performed using a charcoal column.

24. (Currently amended) The particle derivative of claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

a. connecting a patient to a device for withdrawing blood;

b. withdrawing blood containing blood cells from the patient ; and,

c. separating blood cells from the blood to yield a fraction wherein the fraction contains a mixture of the high density lipoprotein particles and the low density lipoprotein particles.

25-72. (Cancelled)

73. (New) The particle derivative of claim 1, wherein the particle derivative has a lower content of lipid than the high density lipoprotein particles prior to exposure to the lipid removing agent.

74. (New) The particle derivative of claim 1, wherein the particle derivative further comprises apolipoprotein A-2.

75. (New) A particle derivative of at least one form of high density lipoprotein particle comprising apolipoprotein A-1, apolipoprotein A-2 and phospholipids, wherein the particle derivative is formed by obtaining a mixture of high density lipoprotein particles and low density lipoprotein particles from a biological fluid, exposing the mixture of the high density lipoprotein particles and low density lipoprotein particles to a lipid removing agent, wherein the exposure does not substantially modify the low density lipoprotein particles, and wherein the particle derivative has a lower content of at least one of lipid or cholesterol than the high density lipoprotein particles prior to exposure to the lipid removing agent.